

MEDICAL NUTRITION THERAPY
ACT OF 1997

HON. JOHN E. ENSIGN

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that will contribute to the improved health and well-being of many Americans. The symptoms and complications related to diseases such as cancer, heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease, and hypertension could be significantly diminished by a change in lifestyle brought about with the help of medical nutrition therapy. Medical nutrition therapy is a service provided by a registered dietitian (RD) or nutrition professional that entails counseling in diet, drug interaction, vitamin therapy, and physical activity. It can improve the quality of life of seriously ill patients while saving health care dollars by speeding recovery, reducing the incidence of medical complications, lowering the number and length of hospital stays, and decreasing the need for drug and surgery treatments. Currently, this treatment is not covered by Medicare, thereby discouraging those who do not want to pay for it out-of-pocket from receiving it.

Today, I am introducing the Medicare Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 1997 with Congressman JOSÉ SERRANO and Congresswoman NANCY JOHNSON and 98 cosponsors. This bill will provide Medicare coverage for medical nutrition therapy by a registered dietitian or nutrition professional upon the referral of a physician. My colleagues and I have drafted this bill with the intention of changing what is currently a sick care system, which only pays for care when people get sick and sicker, to a health care system which pays to keep people as healthy as possible. It is my hope that this bill will help to save Medicare, and most importantly, to save lives.

We all know we should not wait until we hear a crunching sound under the hood of a car before going in for an oil change. Medicare is paying for the health care equivalent of rebuilding engines, but won't pay for the oil change to prevent it.

IN HONOR OF REGINA RUTKOWSKI:
CHOSEN TO BE MARSHALL OF
BAYONNE'S CONTINGENT IN THE
TRI-STATE PULASKI DAY PA-
RADE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional woman, Regina Rutkowski, who was chosen as marshall of Bayonne's contingent to the Tri-State Pulaski Day Parade which will march along Fifth Avenue in New York City on October 20, 1997. Mrs. Rutkowski will be invested with the marshall's sash at a brunch held in her honor on Sunday, April 20 at the Hi-Hat Caterers in Bayonne.

The journey which has led Mrs. Rutkowski to be recognized with this honor began in Poland where she was born to Franciszka and Teodor Razin. Along with her family, the future

Mrs. Rutkowski suffered the ravages of World War II. Her father, a noncommissioned officer in the Polish Cavalry, was captured by the Nazis and placed in a concentration camp for 3 years. The family was later relocated to a German labor farm from which Mrs. Rutkowski still can clearly recall the bombardments in this strange country. After the war, her family moved to England where Mrs. Rutkowski's father joined the British Army, becoming a member of the military band. Mrs. Rutkowski acquired a passion for music from her father, an accomplished musician and composer. In her own right, Mrs. Rutkowski is an accomplished artist with numerous works of art to her credit.

Upon her family's arrival in the United States, Mrs. Rutkowski continued her education which culminated with her graduation from Jersey City State College magna cum laude with a perfect 4.0 grade point average. Subsequently, the former Regina Razin met and married Richard a Rutkowski who went on to become mayor of Bayonne from 1990 to 1994. This joyful union produced three children: Richard, Jr. who manages the Hi-Hat Caterers along with his wife Bonnie; Stephen, a chiropractor in Connecticut who is married to Dr. Teresa Rutkowski; and Robert, a graduate of Widener University Law School. Mrs. Rutkowski's family circle is completed by her brother and sister-in-law Thomas and Helen Razin and their two sons Thomas and Richard.

Mrs. Rutkowski has long been an active community member. This extraordinary woman has been a valued member of many Polish-American organizations, including the Pro Arte League of the Kosciuszko Foundation, AMERPOL Club of New Jersey, the Polish-American Heritage Committee of Bayonne, and Bayonne's Third of May Polish Constitution observances. Additionally, Mrs. Rutkowski serves on the Parish Council of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Bayonne and is a member of the parish's centennial committee and the Mt. Carmen Guild.

Regina Rutkowski is a vivid example of community spirit. It is an honor to have such a caring and dedicated individual in my district working on behalf of her fellow residents of Bayonne.

HONORING TO PATRICK GRIFFIN
TANNER

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late Patrick Griffin Tanner, who tragically died last week at the tender age of 19 in New Orleans. Patrick, a native of Washington, DC, was a tireless worker for the enrichment and betterment of his city, Nation, and world.

In his short, yet tireless and noble life, young Patrick was involved in the Big-Brother program; a volunteer at the Ivymount School; a volunteer at the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church; he worked in the Special Olympics; served as a volunteer for housing rehabilitation and disaster relief programs in several States, as well as in rural Virginia and the Anacostia neighborhood of Washington. At the close of his life, he was working in New Orle-

ans for the Habitat for Humanity organization. He was indeed a well-rounded and giving boy.

I knew of Patrick through my efforts as a Congressman to give him advice and encouragement for his desire to enter the U.S. Naval Academy. He would have been a credit to the U.S. Navy.

When I dwell on how tragic it is to lose such a fine, upstanding young man, I must say that of all the benefits which education and virtue confer upon me, the contempt of the death of a young person is one of the greatest.

In composing my remarks for Patrick's tribute, I recalled some remarks by the Roman poet Horace. Horace wrote the following in the year 65 B.C., but it seems as though when he wrote these remarks, he was thinking of Patrick Tanner. Horace wrote:

The wise man who can command his passions, who fears not want, nor death, nor chains, finally resisting his appetites and despising the honors of the world, who relies wholly upon himself, whose angular points of character have all been rounded off and polished is indeed a free man.

Mr. Speaker, Patrick Griffin Tanner is indeed a free man now. The chains and shackles of this world have indeed been lifted; his spirit has soared, his soul is at rest.

In closing, I send my heartfelt wishes to his parents, John and Nancy Tanner, as well as to his sister, grandparents, relatives, and friends. Patrick will be sorely missed.

"WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE CITI-
ZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION"
PROGRAM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Vicksburg High School for winning first place at the State competition of the "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" program. This organization works to educate young people about the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and their place in American history and our lives. Over the past 10 years, more than 75,000 teachers and 24 million students have developed a better understanding of their responsibilities as American citizens through participation in this program.

The following distinguished students will be participating in the "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" national finals which will be held here in Washington on April 26-28: Adrian Brown, Benjamin Bryant, William Campbell, Brian Crawford, Sarah Czaika, Richard Feibelman, Michael Finney, Katherine Flanagan, Stacey George, Beth Hassell, Claude Jarrett, Eric Johnson, David Jones, Quincy Jones, Ormonde Landry, Shelia Lewis, Scott Lovorn, Farrah Martin, Dionne Murphy, Nicole Nixon, Allison Price, Taylor Rowland, Ryan Roy, Amanda Schilling, Anna Sorey, Jason Stewart, Jennifer Sykes, David Thomas, Tonya Tonth, John Vollar, Michael Warren, Emily Weatherly, and Hugh Whitten.

I would also like to recognize their teacher, Sherry Fisher, who deserves much of the credit for the team's success. The district coordinator, Sam Habeeb, and the State coordinator, Lynette McBrayer, also made important contributions to the team's efforts.

These students set an example for responsible American citizens and scholars. They are a great asset to their families, the Second Congressional District, the State of Mississippi, and this Nation. I wish them the best of luck at the national finals.

HONORING BERTHA DAUBENDIEK

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend of our environment, Ms. Bertha Daubendiek. On Saturday, April 19, as part of Michigan's Earth Day activities, Ms. Daubendiek will be recognized and honored for her longtime accomplishments in working to preserve our precious natural resources.

After graduating with honors from Grinnell College in 1938, Bertha Daubendiek made Michigan her home, and made activism and voluntarism her new calling. In 1970, her activities prompted both chambers of the Michigan legislature to acknowledge her as one of the States's premier volunteers. As her interest turned to the environment, her commitment to community increased as well. In 1979, Ms. Daubendiek received the Detroit News' Michiganian of the Year Award for her work in the completion of 50 nature preservation projects. In 1994, Ms. Daubendiek was inducted into the Michigan women's Hall of Fame.

Some of Ms. Daubendiek's most significant work has been as founder and executive director of the Michigan Nature Association. This unique group of individuals have banded together and created preserves in 51 of Michigan's 83 counties, enhancing the State's natural beauty. They have performed this task without using a penny of taxpayer funds. In addition to this, Ms. Daubendiek is the author of Michigan's natural beauty road law. Passed in 1970, the law is responsible for the preservation of more than 800 miles of roadside habitat.

If you drive around the great State of Michigan, you may notice new license plates on some of our automobiles that display the saying, "Great Lakes Splendor." I believe this statement is true because of the efforts of people like Bertha Daubendiek.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor and pleasure for me to rise today to pay tribute to a true environmental hero, Bertha Daubendiek. She is an inspiration to me and countless others who work to protect our precious environment.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1362—VETERANS MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT DEMONSTRATION ACT OF 1997

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I have joined with Congressman STUMP, many of the Republican and all of the Democratic mem-

bers of the Veterans' Affairs Committee to introduce the Veterans Medicare Reimbursement Demonstration Act of 1997. This strong show of support by so many members of the committee clearly indicates the high priority my colleagues and I give this legislation.

For some time our committee has been exploring the intra-government transfer, or subvention, from Medicare to VA. This year the committee began the process at the urging of veterans and the Veterans Health Administration. Veterans wanted to gain access to the veterans health care system. VA felt it was in their best interest to explore nonappropriated funding as a growing part of their resource base.

VA has submitted a budget during this session of Congress that identified VA collecting and keeping funding from the Medicare trust funds for treatment of certain Medicare-eligible veterans. This is a critical part of the strategy VA has outlined for its future. The Independent Budget, an assessment of veterans programs' resource needs written by four of the major veterans' service organizations and sponsored by many more, also endorses the concept of using Medicare funds in VA.

I am convinced the Veterans Medicare Reimbursement Demonstration Act of 1997 we are introducing today offers the best and the most risk-free way of exploring the viability of this funding option for both VA and for Medicare. This bill does not propose VHA develop a new managed care system tailored to treating a new population of veterans. Instead, it provides VA the opportunity to offer the services it has available to treat aging veterans who might not otherwise receive this care. This will allow VA to limit its care responsibility for new veterans to the services and capabilities that it has available right now.

In addition, the demonstration project authorized by this legislation is time- and site-limited. There are additional safeguards in place to ensure that the Medicare trust fund will not spend any additional funding for veterans who choose VA as a health care provider.

The veterans that this bill will affect are lower and middle-income veterans—some of whom have lost access to VA health care services as constrained resources have compelled VA to stop treating so-called discretionary veterans. VA will receive no funding from Medicare for veterans who are receiving care in VA medical centers today.

We believe that our bill creates opportunities for everyone involved to benefit. The Medicare trust funds have a chance to save money because VA will discount Medicare's rates for providing care to the new Medicare-eligible veterans it will treat. Specifically, Medicare would receive a mandatory 5-percent discount on its reimbursement for services provided to eligible veterans in VA. For this reason, it is our strong view that this bill will produce savings for the Medicare trust funds.

VA will benefit by opening its doors to care for new veterans. Most importantly, veterans will benefit by having a new choice of health care provider.

I hope that my colleagues will view this bill, not just as a bill good for veterans, but as an opportunity to help preserve Medicare for older Americans as well.

TRIBUTE TO TUFTS UNIVERSITY TUFTONIA'S DAY 1997, APRIL 21, 1997

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tufts University in Medford, MA and to honor the more than 78,000 alumni who this Monday, April 21, 1997, will turn their attention to their alma mater in celebration of the 13th annual Tuftonia's Day.

Tuftonia's Day is a gathering of students, alumni, professors, administrators, and parents to celebrate the achievements of the Tufts community. This community extends not only to the campuses in Medford, Boston, and Grafton, MA, but also as far away as the campus abroad in Talloires, France. Students and graduates of Tufts live in more than 100 countries around the world. Tufts is truly a world-class institution of higher education. Tufts University strives to instill in all its students, from undergraduate through the professional degree program, the importance of volunteerism and the need to give something back to one's community.

For this reason the focus of this year's Tuftonia's Day is again TuftServe. The purpose of this is to highlight and show appreciation for the volunteer work that the alumni of Tufts have contributed to their local communities. In fact, Tufts alumni logged over 218,915 hours of community service last year. This outstanding record should stand as an inspiration to us all. I congratulate the alumni of Tufts University for their commitment to the community and loyalty to their alma mater.

TAX LIMITATION CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 1997

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my opposition to House Joint Resolution 62 as it was considered on the floor of the House of Representatives earlier this week. Although the House considered related legislation, House Joint Resolution 159, during the 104th Congress, the differences between these two measures is substantial. House Joint Resolution 159 would have required a supermajority in Congress to approve any bill which would raise Federal revenue. This year, however, the House leadership decided to include an exception to this rule. While I agree there may have been a need to provide for exemptions to the supermajority requirement, I believe the leadership should have excluded measures which would close tax loopholes or eliminate corporate welfare provisions from the Internal Revenue Code. Unfortunately, House Joint Resolution 62 did not address either of these possibilities.

Instead, the resolution was specifically altered to allow for a change in the Tax Code which would overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest 1 percent of families in the United States. The night before this measure was